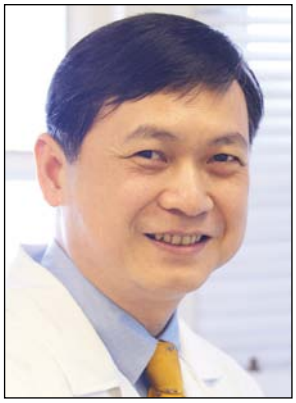
Cover legend: **Thomas S.K. Wan;** a member of The Editorial Academy of The International Journal of Oncology



Dr Thomas S.K. Wan is the Chief Cytogeneticist and Adjunct Professor of the Haematology Division, Department of Anatomical and Cellular Pathology, Prince of Wales Hospital, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, P.R. China. He is also the Honorary Professor of the Department of Pathology, University of Hong Kong, and Adjunct Professor of the Department of Biomedical Sciences, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. In addition, he was the Visiting Professor of Fujian Medical University and Honorary Professor of the First Clinical College, Harbin Medical University, Harbin, P.R. China. Dr Wan was born in Hong Kong and obtained his Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from the National Taiwan University, Taiwan, Republic of China in 1984. He obtained his Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy degrees at the University of Hong Kong in 1992 and 1997 respectively, while working full-time in the University's Pediatrics Department and later Pathology Department. Dr Wan has been awarded a fellowship by the Royal College of Pathologists of the UK (specialized in Clinical Cytogenetics) and a founding fellowship by the Faculty of Science of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (specialized in Genetics) based on his published works on genetics. This achievement is no small feat and is one that is bestowed to basic and clinical scientists whose work is considered of the highest calibre.

In the area of clinical service, Dr Wan developed and maintained an excellent standard of cytogenetic and molecular analyses of clinical specimens from patients with haematological malignancies and solid tumors. He has been contributing to the field of clinical cytogenetics for over 30 years and he is considered one of the most experienced cancer cytogeneticists in Hong Kong. He is recognized regionally and internationally for his scientific contribution in conventional and molecular cytogenetics. He was the past President of the Hong Kong Society of Cytogenetics and Council member of the Hong Kong Society for Molecular Diagnostic Sciences. In 2012, he was appointed as International Ambassador of the Association of Genetic Technologists (USA) for connecting the cytogeneticists in Southeast Asia, including Hong Kong, Taiwan, Mainland China, Japan, South Korea, Thailand and Singapore. As a member of the Speciality Inspector's list for Clinical Cytogenetics and Molecular Cytogenetics, Laboratory Accreditation Programme, College of American Pathologists (CAP), Dr Wan uses his expertise to ensure laboratories around the world uphold the highest standards of cytogenetic services. He has frequently been invited to inspect CAP accredited laboratories in Mainland China, Taiwan, Singapore, India and other countries. Due to his expertise and leadership, Dr Wan was awarded a Hong Kong Hospital Authority Outstanding Staff Award in 2011 in recognition of his outstanding contribution for clinical cytogenetics services in Hong Kong.

Dr Wan's training in research has enabled him to make new discoveries in cytogenetic and molecular genetics of haematological malignancies. He has been attached to several laboratories in the UK, USA, Canada and Australia for research training, including Harvard Medical School and British Columbia Cancer Agency. In addition, he was chosen by Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, USA, based on his academic excellence from a large number of competing candidates to attend the 'Advanced Molecular Cytogenetics' course in 1999. One of the most invaluable attributes that Dr Wan possesses is his willingness to share his knowledge and experience with fellow colleagues. He is very active in teaching. He has demonstrated leadership ability and willingness to contribute to the development of many teaching and training courses related to cytogenetics in Hong Kong. He has frequently been invited to deliver lectures at academic institutions and scientific conferences in Asia. He has also been interviewed in the 'Profiles and Perspectives' column of the Journal of Association Genetic Technologists (USA) (40: 90-93, 2014). In addition, he was also presented a radio programme to popularize genetics to the public in Hong Kong.

With a keen interest in research, Dr Wan currently focuses on the study of genetic alterations in hematological malignancies and solid tumours, especially on the genesis of the chromosomal aberrations in tumorigenesis. He demonstrates the relationship of cell immortalization, telomere shortening, telomerase activation, dicentric chromosome formation, and chromosomal instability in tumour progression. As a result of his outstanding research work, he was given 'The Young Investigators Award' at the Hong Kong International Cancer Congress 1996 and his research work has been featured in Asiaweek in 2000 (July issue) and International Journal of Oncology in 2008 (September issue). Dr Wan is a member of various international professional associations, including Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists, UK; Fellow of the Faculty of Science, Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia, Australia; Chartered Biologist and Member of the Institute of Biology, UK; Chartered Scientist & Fellow of the Institute of Biomedical Science, UK; Member of the Association of Genetic Technologists, USA; and Member of the American Molecular Pathology, USA. He is the scientific advisor and consultant for many institutions throughout Asia including the HKSAR government. He has been serving on the Editorial Boards of numerous international scientific journals in oncology, cytogenetics, haematology and laboratory medicine. To date, he has authored more than 150 reports, reviews and on-line publications in international peer-reviewed journals.